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was afterwards taken by the Irish forces, in whose possession it remained until the summer of 1649, when the Lord Lieutenant again became possessed of it. The round tower, which is situated near the cathedral, is in good preservation, and seems to have been built of two kinds of stone. From the foundation to about twelve or thirteen feet is composed of a kind of white granite, and the remainder of a common kind of stone of a dark colour. The entrance or door, is placed about fourteen feet from the ground, and it is full one hundred and thirty feet in height.

The present town of Kildare has improved very much of late years, and seems not to be placed on the site of the ancient town, but some way to the east, on a clear rising ground. It formerly sent two members to the Irish parliament, the patronage in the Duke of Leinster—it has four fairs in the year

J. L. L.



ANCIENT SANDAL.

SIR—Agreeable to the wishes of your talented correspondent, W. W., I send the accompanying drawing of a sandal at present in his possession. It was discovered a few months ago in the bog between Kilnemmon and Ganarickan, in the county of Tipperary, by some people who were cutting turf. For the correctness of the drawing I can vouch, as I have seen the original. It is (if I may use the expression,) done to life; the smallest minutæ of the carving, and even two cuts which the sandal unfortunately got ere it was discovered, being faithfully delineated. This valuable relic of antiquity is made of leather, curiously carved, and I need not add that it is well tanned. The possessor is of opinion that it must be near a thousand years old. Hoping, shortly, to see this subject illustrated by those who are more competent for the task, I would just offer it as my humble opinion, that the sandal in question is of Celtic origin. Mr. Logan, the ingenious author of a work entitled "The Scottish Gael," informs us that sandals of a description exactly similar, were found among the contents of an ancient vessel dug from the former bed of the river Rother, in Kent. Now we know that Kent was the first habitation of the Gauls in Britain and the last place in that part of the country subsequently conquered by the Saxons, where their manners and customs remained. This circumstance leads me to think that the sandal must have belonged to one of our Celtic ancestors.

IOTA.

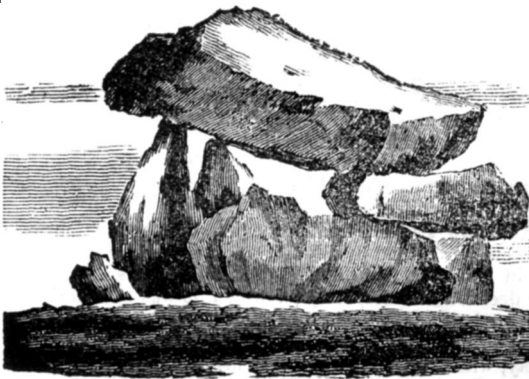
ODE TO SPRING.

To hail thy birth, and greet thine infant years,
Flora herself in green array appears;
Bids the wild warblers rouse their earliest strains,
And wakes the sweet musicians of the plains:
With gavest flowers she studs the varying scene,
Decks with new leaves and clothes the groves with green,
With budding blossoms spreads each sylvan bower,
And tips the myrtle with a whiter flower.
'Tis love's own plant, in Paphos first it grew,
And o'er its plains the earliest odours threw;
Continued verdure on its leaves is seen,
By Venus hallow'd with eternal green;—
A thousand cupids crowd the grassy plain,
Impatient all to form thy youthful train;
The cuckoo too, sweet emblem of the year!
Sits o'er thy head, and soothes thine infant ear:
The humble primrose lifts its modest head,
And breathes its perfumes o'er thy vernal bed;
Nature herself to greet the new-born boy,
Sends genial showers to tell the mother's joy.

J. D.

THE KEMPE STONES.

About one mile from the village of Dundonald, county of Down, a little to the right of the old road leading to Newtownards, there stands in the corner of a field a remarkable monument called the Kempe-stones. Their appearance resembles those *Crom-leachs*, or altars, said to have been dedicated to the Pagan rites of the Druids; but from their name, and that of the townland in which they are found, it is probable they were erected as a memorial of the dead. *Kempe*, in Anglo-Saxon, signifies a warrior or soldier; and according to the tradition of the neighbourhood a giant is interred here, who was slain by a warrior of superior strength. In our records the district is called *Baille-clough-togal*, i. e. the town of the stone of the foreigners or strangers, otherwise Greengraves, by which name it is still known.



This monument consists of an enormous rock or stone, reposing in a reclining position on three others, and when viewed at some distance, has a grand and majestic appearance, especially when we contemplate its antiquity, and the probable state of the arts at that time. The stone is upwards of eight feet and a half in length, and nearly of an equal breadth, varying from four to five feet in thickness, and has been computed to weigh about forty tons.—On the east, or front, the two supporters are of a wedge shape, and about five feet high; the third is composed of a massive slab, partly resting on two others, so that it may be said there are five supporters bearing this ponderous load.

The Norwegian, and other Scandanavian tribes, who visited this country from the 8th to the 11th century, were frequently distinguished by the name of Gauls, or foreigners, and sometimes different tribes had particular names from their complexions. Hence we find mention of *Dubh Galls*, and *Fion Galls*, i. e. black, or white, foreigners or strangers. They were also called *Lochlan's*, or pirates, and it would seem from the name of the townland, that a settlement of some of those northerners had been made here at an early period. These, it is recorded, were in the habit of erecting monuments of stone to the memory of their chiefs—and the larger the stone the greater the honour to the departed.

This district has likewise lately produced other wonders of the olden times, whose history is involved in equal obscurity with that of the *Kempe-stones*. In the summer of 1832, the head and horns of a moose-deer were found in an adjacent bog, resting on marl. The measurement between the tips of the horns was seven feet six inches; the head and horns weighed nearly 200lbs.

Of the animal which carried those magnificent antlers, only one perfect skeleton has been hitherto discovered, although the horns and a few other bones of this animal have been frequently found, in cutting peat, or raising marl. Its history and disappearance from our land, are equally buried in oblivion, and continue alike to baffle the researches of the antiquarian, the inquiries of the naturalist, and the conjectures of the philosopher.

S. M. S.